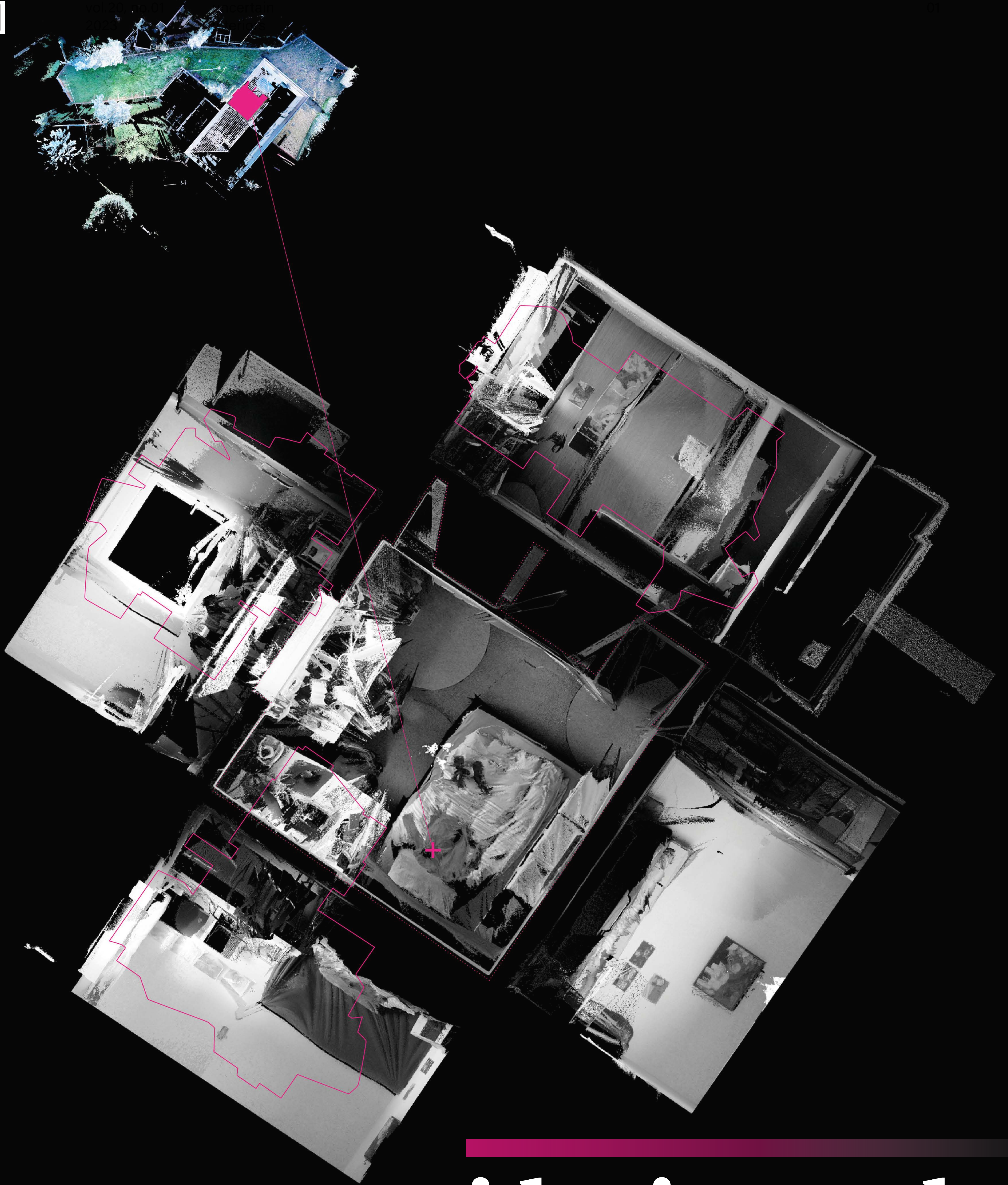


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idea journal

uncertain interiors

vol. 20, no. 01

2023

the journal of IDEA: the interior design +
interior architecture educators association

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about

idea journal recognises interiors and interiority as emerging, discursive, and interdisciplinary fields of research across spatially oriented design, artistic, and architectural practices. It promotes the production of new knowledge on interiors and interiority through the critical appraisal of the conceptual, material, and social relationships between people and built environments. Uniquely, *idea journal* provides a space for scholarly engagement through the publication of both text-based and visual-based research essays. *idea journal* serves an international academic, professional, and student readership. It welcomes contributions from researchers and practitioners involved in bolstering theoretical and creative discourse on spatial design.

<https://journal.idea-edu.com>

Launched in 1999, *idea journal* is an international, double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to publishing scholarly and practice-based research on interiors and interiority. *idea journal* is an open-access publication and produces one journal issue annually. It is a subsidiary of the parent institution IDEA—The Interior Design / Interior Architecture Educators Association.

www.idea-edu.com

The objectives of IDEA are:

1. Objects

1.1 The general object of IDEA is the advancement of education by:

- (a) encouraging and supporting excellence in interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education and research globally and with specific focus on Oceania; and
- (b) being an authority on, and advocate for, interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education and research.

1.2 The specific objects of IDEA are:

- (a) to be an advocate for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at a minimum of AQF7 or equivalent education in interior design/interior architecture/spatial design;
- (b) to support the rich diversity of individual programmes within the higher education sector;
- (c) to create collaboration between programmes in the higher education sector;
- (d) to foster an attitude of lifelong learning;
- (e) to encourage staff and student exchange between programmes;
- (f) to provide recognition for excellence in the advancement of interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education; and
- (g) to foster, publish, and disseminate peer reviewed interior design/interior architecture/spatial design research.

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Membership is open to programmes at higher education institutions in Australasia that can demonstrate an on-going commitment to the objectives of IDEA.

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IDEA

this issue's provocation

In 1981, architect Nigel Coates described London's underground clubs as spaces that wilfully induce delirium. Introducing ideas of obscurity, uncertainty and the unknown into his analysis of these interior environments, Coates suggested that their darkened spaces disintegrated the certainty of walls and physical limitations. Instead, clubs enabled the inhabitants to cultivate each interior as an event—spaces made from the murky, intermingled experiences of London's youth and the 'dress-up box add-on aesthetic' of their art-as-fashion lifestyles. Coates's comments heralded a decade of experimentation with interior environments that blurred disciplinary boundaries between art, design and fashion practices, and introduced ideas of shock, contradiction, fragmentation and ambiguity into interior planning, their drawings, and their performances.

This issue of *idea journal: Uncertain Interiors* sought theoretical, historical, and experimental analyses on the concept of uncertainty in interior environments. Uncertainty is often considered an undesirable quality, a transgression from normative behaviours and functions. Yet, uncertainty is inherent to critical and creative practices of spatial design. It underpins the complex experience inhabitants make with interior space beyond the designer's intention. History is replete with spectacular examples of designs, drawings and spatial practices that embrace the unknown to surpass the predictive, authoritative and determined limitations of their space-planning and programming.

Conversely, recent global events have plagued every aspect of daily life with the impact of uncertainty. Our ecological, economic, political and social spheres now compound instances of unanticipated, and sometimes devastating, change. Fear of uncertainty reveals the latent entrenchment of positivist and conservative values that limit our capacity to adapt with speed, flexibility and agility. Yet, if spatial designers embrace an uncertain relativism altogether, then what claims can they make to predict the real and material impact their work has on social change, political action, and environmental stewardship?

Recognising the significant and complex capacity of uncertainty to disrupt normative practices of design and inhabitation, authors were encouraged to address ideas of uncertain interiors for this journal issue in text-based and image-based research essays.

reviewers for this issue

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in this issue

- 07 editorial introduction
Luke Tipene
Dr Olivia Hamilton
- 10 non-interiors: mapping ambiguous interiority through Chantal Akerman's *Les Rendez-vous d'Anna*
Büşra Balaban
Aslıhan Şenel
- 26 point/cloud: diffusive spatial imaginaries
Carl Douglas
- 44 first hard, then soft: house architecture and the future-ready value of plan flexibility
Erika Brandl
- 62 resisting the real through imagined interiors and social media's spaces of uncertainty
Dave Loder
- 81 abandoned war-torn homes as casualties and witnesses of violence
Nevena Mrdjenovic
- 101 exploiting the unexpected
Linda Matthews
- 118 vacantly occupied: movements queering materialities (or, becomings from the toilet)
Nick Rebstadt
- 136 [with]drawing-room: surveying the uncertain, the estranged, the monstrous
Yuman Zeon (宇文锡安)
- 150 a note to readers for essays: waewae taku haere and whakamana
Jen Archer-Martin (Ngāpuhi, Pākehā)
Stuart Foster (Tangata Tiriti)
Kura Puke (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki Whānui)
Georgina Stokes (Ngāi Tahu)
- 151 waewae taku haere: stepping into belonging in storied landscapes
Jen Archer-Martin (Ngāpuhi, Pākehā)
Stuart Foster (Tangata Tiriti)
Kura Puke (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki Whānui)
- 180 student responses to waewae taku haere: stepping into belonging in storied landscapes
Samuel Dunstall (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu)
Marie Preuss (Tuiwi - German)
Lottie Harper-Siolo (Iva, Savai'i, Samoa / Palagi)
- 183 whakamana: embracing uncertainty in relationally responsible spatial design studio pedagogy for a flourishing aotearoa
Jen Archer-Martin (Ngāpuhi, Pākehā)
Georgina Stokes (Ngāi Tahu)